

Report Summary for the NAEP 1998 Reading State Report for Virginia

On March 4, 1999, the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) released national and state results of the 1998 National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) reading assessment. The report of Virginia's results, titled *The NAEP 1998 Reading State Report for Virginia*, will be printed later this year. This report summary, prepared by the Virginia Department of Education, was extracted from a pre-publication copy of *The NAEP 1998 Reading State Report for Virginia. The NAEP 1998 Reading Report Card for the Nation and the States* is available on the Internet at <http://nces.ed.gov/naep/>.

NAEP has three different assessment programs:

1. **National main NAEP** is administered to national samples of students in grades 4, 8, and 12 to provide information about achievement of the nation's students. No state-level data is available from National main NAEP;
2. **Long-term trend national NAEP** provides measures of change over time; and
3. **State NAEP** began in 1990. Virginia's participation in state NAEP is required by the Code of Virginia.

The NAEP 1998 reading assessment included two of these programs: National main NAEP and State NAEP. The content of the tests for these two programs is the same; only the samples of students selected to participate in the respective programs are different.

Student performance on NAEP assessments is summarized as: (1) an average scale score and (2) the percent of students performing at various achievement levels. The NAEP reading scales range from 0 to 500. NAEP achievement levels are defined as follows:

Basic	Denotes partial mastery of prerequisite knowledge and skills that are fundamental for proficient work at each grade.
Proficient	Represents solid academic performance. Students have demonstrated competency over challenging subject matter, including subject-matter knowledge, application of such knowledge to real-world situations, and analytic skills appropriate to the subject matter.
Advanced	Signifies superior performance.

State NAEP 1998 Reading Assessment

The state NAEP 1998 reading assessment was administered to students in grades 4 and 8. The state-level results for Virginia fourth graders were based on a sample of 2,602 students from 106 randomly selected Virginia public schools. State-level results for Virginia eighth graders were based on a sample of 2,493 students from 103 randomly selected Virginia public schools.

Grade 4

The NAEP reading assessment was administered in 1998 at grade 4, marking the third time that the NAEP reading assessment has been based on the current reading frameworks. Previous administrations were in 1992 and 1994.

- In 1998, the average reading scale score of students in Virginia was 218. This did not differ significantly from that of students across the nation (215).
- In Virginia, the average scale score of students was higher in 1998 (218) than in 1994 (213). Similarly, the average scale score of fourth graders across the nation was higher in 1998 (215) than in 1994 (212).
- In Virginia, the average scale score of students was not significantly different in 1998 (218) from that in 1992 (221). Similarly, the average scale score of fourth graders across the nation was not significantly different in 1998 (215) from that in 1992 (215).
- In 1998, the percentage of Virginia students who performed at or above the *Proficient* level was 30 percent. This percentage did not differ significantly from the percentage of the nation's students who performed at the same level (29 percent).
- The percentage of students performing at or above the *Proficient* level in Virginia did not differ significantly in 1998 (30 percent) from that in 1992 (31 percent).
- The percentage of students performing at or above the *Proficient* level in Virginia did not differ significantly in 1998 (30 percent) from that in 1994 (26 percent).

Average Scale Scores for 1992, 1994, and 1998: Grade 4

Group	1992	1994	1998
Virginia	221	213	218
Southeast	211	208	210
Nation	215	212	215

Percentage of Grade 4 Public School Students Attaining Each Achievement Level

Group	Year	Below Basic Level	At or Above Basic Level	At or Above Proficient Level	At Advanced Level
Virginia	1998	36	64	30	6
	1994	43	57	26	7
	1992	33	67	31	6
Southeast	1998	46	54	23	5
	1994	47	53	23	6
	1992	45	55	22	4
Nation	1998	39	61	29	6
	1994	41	59	28	7
	1992	40	60	27	6

**State NAEP 1998 Reading Assessment Results
by Gender and Race/Ethnicity
Grade 4**

Demographic Category	Percentage of Students	Average Scale Score
All Students	100	218
Students who indicated their gender as . . .		
Male	50	214
Female	50	223
Students who indicated their Race/Ethnicity as . . .		
White	63	226
Black	23	203
Hispanic	8	198
Asian/Pacific Islander	4	230
American Indian	*	*

* Sample size is insufficient to permit a reliable estimate.

SOURCE: National Center for Education Statistics, National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), 1998 Reading Assessment.

Average Scale Scores for Participating States Grade 4

	Average Scale Score		Average Scale Score
Nation	215		
States		States	
Alabama	211	Missouri	216
Arizona	207	Montana	226
Arkansas	209	Nevada	208
California	202	New Hampshire	226
Colorado	222	New Mexico	206
Connecticut	232	New York	216
Delaware	212	North Carolina	217
Florida	207	Oklahoma	220
Georgia	210	Oregon	214
Hawaii	200	Rhode Island	218
Iowa	223	South Carolina	210
Kansas	222	Tennessee	212
Kentucky	218	Texas	217
Louisiana	204	Utah	215
Maine	225	Virginia	218
Maryland	215	Washington	217
Massachusetts	225	West Virginia	216
Michigan	217	Wisconsin	224
Minnesota	222	Wyoming	219
Mississippi	204		

SOURCE: National Center for Education Statistics, National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), 1998 Reading Assessment.

Grade 8

The NAEP reading assessment was administered in 1998 at grade 8, marking the first time that the NAEP reading assessment has been administered at grade 8 as part of state NAEP.

- In Virginia, the average reading scale score was 266 in 1998, higher than that of students across the nation (261) and the southeast (258).
- In 1998, the percentage of students who performed at or above the *Proficient* level in Virginia was 33 percent. This percentage did not differ significantly from that of students across the nation (31).

Average Scale Scores for 1998: Grade 8

Group	1998
Virginia	266
Southeast	258
Nation	261

Percentages of Grade 8 Public School Students Attaining Each Achievement Level

Group	Below Basic Level	At or Above Basic Level	At or Above Proficient Level	At Advanced Level
Virginia	22	78	33	3
Southeast	32	68	25	2
Nation	28	72	31	2

**State NAEP 1998 Reading Assessment Results
by Gender, Race, Ethnicity, and Parents' Education Level
Grade 8**

Demographic Category	Percentage of Students	Average Scale Score
All Students	100	266
Students who indicated their gender as . . .		
Male	50	262
Female	50	271
Students who indicated their Race/Ethnicity as . . .		
White	65	274
Black	24	249
Hispanic	6	253
Asian/Pacific Islander	4	271
American Indian	*	*
Students who reported their parents' highest level of education as . . .		
Did Not Finish High School	6	248
Graduated from High School	25	254
Some Education After High School	16	269
Graduated from College	47	277
I Don't Know	7	250

* Sample size is insufficient to permit a reliable estimate.

SOURCE: National Center for Education Statistics, National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), 1998 Reading Assessment.

Average Scale Scores for Participating States Grade 8

	Average Scale Score		Average Scale Score
Nation	261		
States		States	
Alabama	255	Missouri	263
Arizona	261	Montana	270
Arkansas	256	Nevada	257
California	253	New Mexico	258
Colorado	264	New York	266
Connecticut	272	North Carolina	264
Delaware	256	Oklahoma	265
Florida	253	Oregon	266
Georgia	257	Rhode Island	262
Hawaii	250	South Carolina	255
Kansas	268	Tennessee	259
Kentucky	262	Texas	262
Louisiana	252	Utah	265
Maine	273	Virginia	266
Maryland	262	Washington	265
Massachusetts	269	West Virginia	262
Minnesota	267	Wisconsin	266
Mississippi	251	Wyoming	262

SOURCE: National Center for Education Statistics, National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), 1998 Reading Assessment.